

ABSTRACT

[0054] A method and system (10) for re-learning a previously programmed, authenticated key (24) is provided. In one embodiment, the system (10) includes an electronic control module (ECM) (22) and a key (24) for use with the ECM (22). The method begins when the ECM (22) fails to match an identification code (ID) of the key (24) with all active or disabled IDs that are stored within the ECM (22). Thereafter, the ECM (22) sends a signal to the key (24) by encryption with a default secret code. If the key (24) does not respond to this signal, then the ECM (22) sends a signal to the previously programmed key (24) by encryption with one of a series of unique secret codes stored within the ECM's memory (28). The key (24) receives this signal and then transmits an encrypted valid response signal to the ECM (22). The ECM (22) extracts a key password from the encrypted valid response signal and compares this key password to a module password, which is stored within the ECM (22). Thereafter, the ECM (22) determines that the passwords are identical and the ECM (22) stores the key identification code.